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in the form of "local self-government" is the next breath was Senator Humphries. The Senator's view of "those old Democratic principles of local self-government" fluctuates. One week from the time that he introduced his "local self-government county uniformity tax book bill" he forgot his cherished Democratic principles and introduced a bill proposing an amendment to the Constitution that would prohibit the sale of liquor in this State.

If such amendment be adopted the "local self-government" of the counties would be abolished and the Democratic principle swept into the trash pile.

Senator Humphries returned to his abandoned first love when he denounced the State uniformity bill, and now there is curiosity as to how he will get a divorce when he arises to support his State prohibition bill.

Night sessions of the Senate next week. As for holding Knight sessions—why, they have been held since one week after the Legislature convened.

Loggerhead and green turtles having been protected by each house, hope is renewed that the children of the State will receive consideration, and that the Child Labor Bill will pass the House without weakening amendment. This bill passed the Senate April 25.

BILL TO TAX RAIROADS.

The following bill has been introduced by Senator Massey:

Section 1. Any railroad company doing business in this State shall pay annually to the Comptroller of the State a sum equal to ten dollars for each and every mile of its railroad track in this State, including branches, switches, spurs and sidetracks, as shown by the last assessment of said railroad company for property taxation, as a State license tax, which shall be in lieu of all other State and county license taxes on said railroad company.

Sec. 2. Any city or town hereinafter described is hereby authorized to impose upon any railroad company whose tracks extends into or through its corporate limits a license tax not exceeding the sums following: Municipalities of twenty thousand inhabitants or more, two hundred and fifty dollars; those of fifteen thousand to twenty thousand inhabitants, one hundred and fifty dollars; those of ten thousand to fifteen thousand inhabitants, one hundred dollars; those of five thousand to ten thousand inhabitants, fifty dollars, and those of one thousand to three thousand inhabitants, twenty-five dollars. No municipality having less than one thousand inhabitants shall impose any such license tax, nor shall any municipality impose any other license tax on railroad companies than is provided by this section.

For the purposes of this section, the population of any such municipality shall be held to be that shown by the last official census, whether of the United States or of this State, or by any later census which may be taken as now provided by law.

The First Gas.

Soon after Argand invented his lamp William Murdoch, a Scottish inventor, showed the world a new way of lighting a house. It had long been known that fat or coal, when heated, gives off a vapor or gas which burns with a bright light. Indeed, it is always a gas that burns, and not a hard substance. In the candle or in the lamp the flame heats the oil which comes up to it through the wick and thus causes the oil to give off a gas. It is this gas that burns and gives the light. Now Murdoch, in 1797, put this principle to a good use. He heated coal in a large vessel and allowed the gas which was driven off to pass through mains and tubes to different parts of his house. Whenever he wanted a light he let the gas escape at the end of the tube in a small jet and lighted it. Here was a lamp without a wick. Murdoch soon extended his gas pipes to his factories and lighted them with gas. As soon as it was learned how to make gas cheaply and conduct it safely from house to house, not alone apartments and buildings, but whole cities were rescued from darkness by the new illuminate.

—S. E. Forman in St. Nicholas.

A Bit of Green.

People who have no skill with house plants or no time to attend to them may nevertheless have a refreshing bit of green with no trouble at all. English ivy grows freely in water, and a few slips in bottles concealed behind pictures and mirrors will be a source of great pleasure through an entire winter. Fill the bottles with fresh water once in awhile and direct the course of the new growth by common pins stuck in the wall, and that is all the care required for a highly decorative frieze of graceful garlands.—Harper's House.

Moonlight.

"All the world was sunk in gloom till gradually a rayonnant heralding halo of a pallid and lustrous green appeared above the deeply purple summits. In its midst the yellow moon slowly revealed herself, and with a visible tremulousness rose solemnly into the ascendancy of the night." This is the way a lady novelist has of telling her readers that it is moonlight.—Chicago Journal.

Lusk of a Windfall.

The harsh forest laws of William the Conqueror are responsible for the meaning of good luck now so often associated with the term windfall. Under the Norman monarch it was a criminal offense to cut down timber in the forests, but as the peasants were allowed to gather whatever wood the wind had blown down they always hailed a storm as an omen of great good luck.—New York Telegram.

A Pious Cat.

A curious story is told of a cat which lived for some years in the underground stables of a coal mine. It was always to be found in the stall belonging to an old donkey when that animal was resting from its labors. One day, owing to the carelessness of its driver in unloading it, the donkey suffered a severe strain and was quite unable to perform its daily work. For nearly a fortnight the donkey lay in agony in its stable, and during that time the cat scarcely ever left its friend. Sometimes the pit lads would drive it away, but it would always creep back again, and when the donkey died as a result of its injuries the cat began to howl pitifully and would not be comforted. But the climax came when they were taking the donkey's carcass to the surface. The cat began to scratch and fly at the men who were moving it and became so violent that it had to be killed.

A Curious Romance.

Hutton, the historian of Derby, England, tells a curious story about his grandfather. He was serving under Cromwell in 1651 when one day in crossing over St. Mary's bridge he saw a girl standing by the stream filling her pail with water. He flung a large stone toward her to frighten her with the splash, missed his aim and hit her on the head. She fell motionless, and he ran away, fearing he had killed her. For years he was haunted by the idea that the girl's blood was on his hands. After his discharge from the army he married a Derby woman and one day intrusted this secret to her. He was both relieved and surprised to learn that the girl had recovered and that he had married her.

War Gods of Samoa.

In Samoa the kingfisher, heron, owl and bat are worshipped as war gods, and in times of war their actions are supposed to indicate success or defeat. If the kingfisher flies before the troops, it is a good sign, but if it comes flying toward the people as they are preparing to start the war signifies defeat. Should an owl fly about overhead while the troops are walking along, that is a good sign, but if it flies away in the direction of the enemy it is supposed to have led the one party and gone to join the other and therefore to signify a calamity.

"Old King Cole."

"Old King Cole," the merry monarch of the nursery rhyme, has been identified with Cole, Ose or Coil, a semi-mythical king of Britain, who, according to Robert of Gloucester and other old chroniclers, succeeded Asclepiad on the British throne about 225 A. D. He it was who built the walls around the city of Colchester, so named in his honor. St. Helena is supposed to have been his daughter.

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